THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c) The Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 1988 seeks to (i) control unauthorised possession and consumption of LPG (ii) regulate storage and transportation of LPG (iii) check the sale and distribution of LPG below the standard weight (iv) control the unauthorised possession, supply of sale of LPG equipment and (v) to invest in designated officers of the Central/State Governments and oil companies the power of entry, search and seizure with a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Order;

(d) It is expected that effective enforcement of the provisions of this Order will protect the interests of genuine LPG consumers while preventing unauthorised diversion of LPG, in addition to enhancing safety in handling.

Reopening of Metal Box Limited Calcutta

640. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any step for the reopening of Metal Box Limited, Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the sick industrial companies (Special Provisions Act, 1985) Government have set up Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) which looks into the various aspects of revival of sick industrial companies. Such sick industrial companies are required to report sickness to the Board for considering sultable measures for revival/ rehabilitation. It is understood from BIFR that Metal Box India Ltd., have already approached them and their case has been registered by the Board on 15-1-88.

Recovery of unintended benefit made by Drug Companies

641. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2724 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st March, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are cosidering the proposal to pass on the job of recovery of unintended benefit made by drug companies from the poor consumers to the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and by when the work will be taken up by the Ministry of Finance;

(c) whether it is a fact that the estimated amount of recovery is above Rs. 500 crores;

(d) if so, by when the total amount will be recovered with the present speed of recovery of about Rs. 4 crores during the last seven years; and

(e) the names of the drug companies to which notice for recovery have been issued along with the amount in each case?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The details of the amount assessed tentatively by the special team as recoverable from the companies for the period ending 31-12-83